

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 03563 110516Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 /023 W
-----082014 110519Z /20

O 110501Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5865
CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 03563

FOR: VOA PGM/P PGM/R, CINCPAC FOR USICA ADVISOR

EO 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - DISARMAMENT

1. THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD, JULY 10, IN ITS SECOND EDITORIAL UNDER THE HEADING "REALISM IN THE NUCLEAR AGE" COMMENTED:
2. "IN AN AGE OF NUCLEAR PROTEST, PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT TO DECLARE THAT IT DOES NOT WANT ANY COUNTRY TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE DEFENCE OF NEW ZEALAND IS AS PREDICTABLE AS THE MOTIVES ARE IDEALISTIC. THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT A GENERAL RENUNCIATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS NOT A WORTHY INTERNATIONAL OBJECTIVE. ORDINARY PEOPLE EVERYWHERE WOULD CONCUR. BUT IN THE PRESENT WORLD POLITICAL CLIMATE, NEW ZEALAND ADOPTION OF SUCH A STANCE IN HER DEFENCE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE UNITED STATES WOULD HARDLY BE REALISTIC.
3. "WHAT WOULD A DECLARATION OF THIS NATURE ACHIEVE? AT BEST, IT WOULD IRRITATE A FRIENDLY SUPER-POWER WITHOUT EXTRACTING ANY PROMISES FROM ANY POTENTIALLY UN-FRIENDLY SUPER-POWER...

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4. "MOREOVER, WHERE WARS ARE BEING FOUGHT TODAY - IN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST - THE WEAPONS BEING USED ARE CONVENTIONAL, AS THEY HAVE BEEN IN ALL CONFLICTS SINCE 1945...
5. "PERHAPS TOO MUCH ATTENTION IS BEING PAID TO NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND TOO LITTLE TO CONVENTIONAL DISARMAMENT.

CERTAINLY, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WHICH CANNOT AFFORD OR OTHERWISE PROCURE NUCLEAR WEAPONS, ARE CONTRIBUTING PROPORTIONATELY MORE TO THE RISE IN ARMS SPENDING THAN THE SUPER-POWERS...

6. "IF IN INTERNATIONAL COUNCILS NEW ZEALAND'S VOICE IS TO BE HEARD AS REALISTIC AND RESPONSIBLE, IT MUST EXPRESS BALANCED VIEWS AND NOT JUST THOSE AROUSED BY POPULAR EMOTION." ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISARMAMENT, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978WELLIN03563
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780282-1196
Format: TEL
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780772/aaaacilc.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: da794977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2044802
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION - DISARMAMENT
TAGS: SOPN, MNUC
To: ICA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/da794977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014